

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/634,028

Examiner

Igor Kershteyn

Applicant(s)

FAULKNER, ANDREW ROWELL

Art Unit

3745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/29/2003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

Reasons for allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant invention is deemed to be directed to an unobvious improvement to a casing assembly in an axial fluid flow turbomachine over U.S. Patent No. 4,787,817 which teaches an axial fluid flow turbomachine, a casing assembly 5 comprising: a plurality of casing segments 6a arranged in circumferential sequence, wherein circumferentially adjacent casing segments 6a abut each other along generally radially extending joints 6b, each casing segment 6a having circumferentially opposed ends 6c,6d and each of its opposed ends comprising at least one sealing face (not numbered) for abutting with a corresponding sealing face on a circumferentially adjacent segment, each casing segment 6a being mounted for limited pivoting movement about a pivot point 11a.

The improvement comprises pivoting movement of the casing segments causes the sealing faces to come into sealing contact with each other.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Prior Art

Prior art made of record but not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure and consist of four patents.

Colley (4,330,234) is cited to show a casing for a turbomachine having a plurality of casing segments and pivoting point for moving each casing segment but fails to teach pivoting movement of the casing segments causes the sealing faces to come into sealing contact with each other.

Smith (4,332,523) is cited to show a casing for a turbomachine and pivoting point for moving the casing but fails to teach a plurality of casing segments, and pivoting movement of the casing segments causes the sealing faces to come into sealing contact with each other.

Thompson et al. (4,863,345) is cited to show a casing for a turbomachine having a plurality of casing segments and pivoting point for moving each casing segment but fails to teach pivoting movement of the casing segments causes the sealing faces to come into sealing contact with each other.

Brandl et al. (6,672,831) is cited to show a casing for a turbomachine having a plurality of casing segments and pivoting point for moving each casing segment but fails to teach pivoting movement of the casing segments causes the sealing faces to come into sealing contact with each other.

Art Unit: 3745

Contact information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Kershteyn whose telephone number is **(571)272-4817**. The examiner can be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look, can be reached on **(571)272-4820**. The fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 0861.

IK

December 16, 2004



Igor Kershteyn
Patent examiner.
Art Unit 3745



EDWARD K. LOOK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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12/20/04